

Application Serial No: 09/932,735

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 7, 18 and 21 as follows:

Claim 1. (original) A method comprising:

employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client information as a client record in a database;

the first web server directing a client to access a resource at the second Web-Server;

said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client record in the database;

the second web server decapsulating the location and retrieving the client record from the database; and

the second web server using the client record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism.

Claim 2. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first and the second user tracking mechanisms use cookies for storing the user client information.

Claim 3. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web server authenticates the client, and the client record includes user authentication data enabling the second web server to use a common sign-on with the sign-on of the first web server.

Claim 4. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web server stores within the client record at least one parameter which determines at least one characteristic of at least one page to be sent to the client by the second web server.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A method as recited in ~~1~~ 4, wherein said at least one parameter includes at least one user preference.

Claim 6. (original) A method as recited in 5, wherein said at least one user preference is related to at least one detected purchasing habit.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A method comprising:

employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web server in a second DNS domain,

enabling said first and second web servers to share cookie information;

and

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6 coordinating cookies across said first and second domains;  
7 storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and  
8 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information  
9 about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step  
2 of coordinating is performed by a cookie coordinator accessible to said first  
3 and second Web-Servers.

1 Claim 9. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising  
2 providing a cookie coordinator accessible to said first and second Web-  
3 Servers to perform the step of coordinating.

1 Claim 10. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step  
2 of enabling includes the first web server setting a first cookie having a  
3 first identity and the second web server setting a second cookie having a  
4 second identity, and the step of coordinating maps the first and second  
5 identities to a third identity shared across said first and second domains.

1 Claim 11. (original) An apparatus comprising:  
2 means for employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a  
3 second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a  
4 first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the  
5 client information as a client record in a database;  
6 means for the first web server directing a client to access a resource  
7 at the second web server;  
8 means for said resource encapsulating information about a location of  
9 the client record in the database;  
10 means for the second web server decapsulating the location and  
11 retrieving the client record from the database; and  
12 means for the second web server using the client record in conjunction  
13 with a second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
3 for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web  
4 server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the  
5 computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture  
6 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to  
7 effect the steps of claim 1.

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1 Claim 13. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
3 for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web  
4 server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the  
5 computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture  
6 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to  
7 effect the steps of claim 7.

1 Claim 14. (original) A method comprising:  
2 employing a first user tracker in a first domain, and a second user  
3 tracker in a second domain, wherein the first user tracker uses a first user  
4 tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client  
5 information as a client record in a database;  
6 the first user tracker directing a client to access a resource at the  
7 second user tracker;  
8 said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client  
9 record in the database;  
10 the second user tracker decapsulating the location and retrieving the  
11 client record from the database; and  
12 the second user tracker using the client record in conjunction with a  
13 second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 15. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
3 perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the  
4 steps of claim 1.

1 Claim 16. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
3 perform method steps for using cookies, said method steps comprising the  
4 steps of claim 7.

1 Claim 17. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
3 for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in  
4 said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means  
5 for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 11.

1 Claim 18. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web  
3 server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server maintains a first

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4 private cookie at a browser and the second web server maintains a second  
5 private cookie at the browser;  
6 accessing a cookie coordinator when the first private cookie is  
7 received by the first web-server, ~~and~~;  
8 mapping a first identity in the first private cookie and a second  
9 identity in the second private cookie to a single identity common across the  
10 multiple domains;  
11 storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and  
12 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information  
13 about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, further  
2 comprising:  
3 using the single identity to look up the identity of users across the  
4 different domains, and  
5 the cookie coordinator learning the mapping of the various cookies that  
6 are placed independently on the browser by the different servers.

1 Claim 20. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
3 perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the  
4 steps of claim 18.

1 Claim 21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 a web server interface to interface with a first web server in a first  
3 DNS domain and to interface a second web server in a second DNS domain;  
4 said first web server having:  
5 a first user tracker to collect client information and ~~stores~~  
6 store client information as a client record in a cookie coordinator database;  
7 a redirector for the first web server to direct a client to  
8 access a resource at the second web server;  
9 an encapsulator for said resource to encapsulate information  
10 about a location of the client record in the database; and  
11 said second web server having:  
12 a second user tracker for the second web server to use the client  
13 record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism; and  
14 a decapsulator for the second web server to decapsulate a  
15 location and ~~retrieving~~ retrieve the client record from the database.

1 Claim 22. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein

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- 3 for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in
- 4 said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means
- 5 for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 21.